Further the Cable TV Network (Regulation) Act 1995 provides that no programmes and advertisements shall be transmitted or re-transmitted. through a cable service in violation of prescribed programme/advertisement code, if its reception requires a specialised gadgets namely decoders etc.

Further the possibility to make uplinking mandatory from Indian soil and to make satellite channels adhere to Indian Rules would be examined while formulating the Broadcasting Bill.

SAARC & B Ministers Conefernce

1345. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the I&B Ministers of SAARC countries held a conference at Dhaka; and

(b) if so, the purpose and the details of the subjects discussed in the conference alongwith the outcome of the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first SAARC Information Ministers Meeting was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 25-26 April, 1998 to discuss measures for increasing co-operation in the field of information and Media among the SAARC countries.

The meeting discussed subject like need for greater contact amongst media personnel, co-operation among SAARC News agencies, improving the programmes under SAARC Audio Visual exchange, facilities for smooth movement of man and material related to media sector among SAARC countries, steps for better projection of SAARC outside the region etc. A Dhaka Communique and Plan of Action was adopted at the end of the meeting.

Potential of wind energy as alternative source of Energy

1346. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for energy is constantly increasing in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the efforts made to promote alternative resources of energy;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to explore the potentiality of wind energy in the State;

(d) if so, the outcome of the survey; and

(e) the time by which the plan will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government provides capital subsidy, fiscal incentives and soft loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IRDEA) for renewable energy projects in the country, including Gujarat. Such assistance is available for biogas plants; improved chulhas; solar photovoltic devices and systems; biomass gasifiers; solar water and air heating systems; and, grid-connected, as well as decentralised power generation projects, based on solar energy, wind energy, small hydro and biomass. Resource assessment studies and surveys are being supported to identify potential areas for such project. A Nodal Agency, namely, Gujarat Energy Development Agency, was set up in 1979 by the State Government for the promotion and popularisation of renewable sources of energy in the State.

(c) Under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme, 41 Wind Monitoring Stations and 80 Wind Mapping Stations have been set up to identify potential

sites for wind power projects in the State.

(d) 28 potential sites have so far been identified mainly in the Saurashtra and Kutch regions, which are considered suitable for setting up of wind power projects.

(e) The exploitation of the full potential will depend upon identification of further sites; techno-economic viability; continuation of Central and State incentives; and, mobilisation of financial resources.

Generation capacity of wind energy

1347. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present generation capacity of wind energy in the country and the amount of electricity actually generated;

(b) what is the potential of wind energy available in various parts of the country; and

(c) what specific plans are being made to tap the wind energy to its optimum potential?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) An aggregate wind power capacity of 992 MW has been installed in the country and over 3.7 billion units of electricity have been generated so far.

(b) Preliminary estimates have indicated an overall Wind Power Potential of about 20,000 MW in the country.

(c) Several initiatives for installation of wind power projects in both private and public sectors have been taken. The wind resource assessment programme is being expanded to cover more States and new areas towards identification of potential sites for wind power projects. A number of fiscal incentives, including soft loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) are available. The States have been requested to announce conducive polices for commercial projects. The public sector 'navaratans' and 'mini ratnas' as well as top private sector companies h ave been requested to consider investments in wind power generation. A target for wind power capacity addition of 1000 MW has been proposed for the Ninth Plan.

Untapped Solar Power Potential in Ladakh

1348. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Ladakh region in the country is one with immense capacity of hitherto untapped solar energy in any proper sense;

(b) whether Government have any plan to take any major solar power project in Ladakh;

(c) if so, by when a decision in this regard will be taken; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Ladakh region is one of the areas in the country with significant potential for harnessing solar energy. Solar energy is already being used in the region for lighting, space heating and solar greenhouses. 38 villages and hamlets have been electrified through provision of solar photovoltic lanterns and home lighting systems.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has already sanctioned a project to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development council (LAHDC) for the installation of a 38.7